

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00634 250549Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 AID-05
IGA-02 /080 W
-----250553Z 033148 /15

R 241225Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2629
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0634

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, XF, US, QA
SUBJECT: US ARMS SALES POLICY--BRIEFING OF QATARI FOREIGN
MINISTER

REF: STATE 115406, STATE 115409, STATE 115244

1. ON MAY 23 I BRIEFED QATARI FOREIGN MINISTER SHAYKH SUHAYM
BIN HAMAD AL THANI ON NEW US ARMS SALES POLICY, DRAWING ON
REFTELS. WE HAD PROVIDED SUHAYM WITH COPY OF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
IN ADVANCE OF CONVERSATION.

2. SUHAYM SAID HE WAS OF COURSE AWARE FROM OUR PREVIOUS CON-
VERSATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT'S FIRM DETERMINATION TO REDUCE THE
INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRAFFIC. SUHAYM CONTINUED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S
GOAL WAS A LAUDABLE ONE AND THE POLICY APPROACH AS OUTLINED WAS
MOST RATIONAL, AND HE WOULD NOT PRESUME TO CRITICIZE IT. HOW-
EVER, SAID SUHAYM, IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN OTHER WORLD TROUBLE
SPOTS WHERE ARMS TRAFFIC PARTICULARLY HEAVY, WE ARE DEALING WITH
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PAGE 02 DOHA 00634 250549Z

IRRATIONAL SITUATIONS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE POLICY APPEARED
TO HAVE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO DEAL WITH SUCH SITUATIONS,
BUT HE SAID AS REGARDS THE MIDDLE EAST THE SUCCESS OF THIS
POLICY WOULD INEVITABLY DEPEND ON OUR PRODUCING A JUST AND
DURABLE PEACE IN THE AREA.

3. I ASSURED SUHAYM THAT OUR NEW ARMS SALES POLICY WAS CONCEIVED

WITH OUR GOAL OF CATALYZING A MID EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT VERY MUCH IN MIND.

4. COMMENT: SUHAYM'S FAVORABLE RECEPTION OF OUR NEW ARMS SALES POLICY IS A POSITIVE FACTOR, BUT HE IS AT SOME DISTANCE FROM ITS ACTUAL IMPACT HERE. AT PRESENT WE HAVE NO RPT NO SIGNIFICANT ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOQ, AND HAVE APPARENTLY SUCCESSFULLY DISCOURAGED ITS INTEREST IN SEEKING F-5'S FROM US. HOWEVER, DURING PAST WEEK WE HAVE HAD TWO INFORMAL APPROACHES FROM QATARI MILITARY FOR POSSIBLE SALES OF WHAT COULD AMOUNT TO SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF CONVENTIONAL MILITARY HARDWARE, E.G. 50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS, M-16 RIFLES, ETC. THESE APPROACHES WILL BE REPORTED IN DETAIL WHEN REQUESTS ARE FORMALIZED BY OFFICIAL GOQ LETTER. EMBASSY WILL THEN SUBMIT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN CONTEXT OF NEW ARMS SALES POLICY FOR RESPONDING TO GOQ'S POSSIBLE DESIRE TO ESTABLISH MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S.
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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